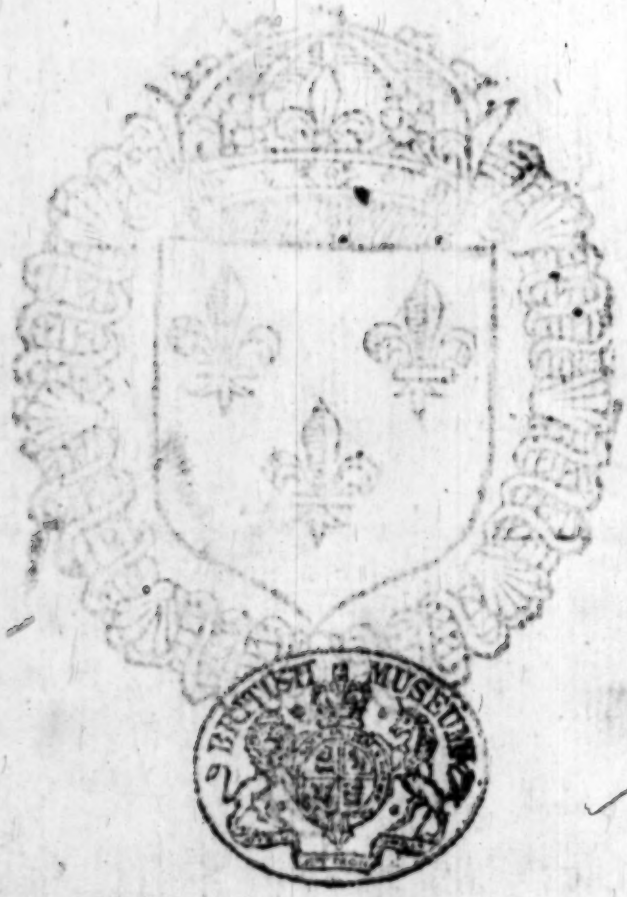
A Recitall of that which hath happened in the *Kings Armie, since the taking of* the Suburbes of Paris, vntill *the taking of the Towne of* Humslet.

Imprinted at London for *Tobie Cooke.*
1590.



BRITISH MUSEUM

A RECITALL OF that which happened in the Kings *Armie, ſince the taking of the Sub-* urbes of Paris, vntill the ta- *king of the Towne of Phaleſey.*

ALthough that common examples doo ſufficiently ſhewe vs, that patient forbearing ſufficeth to giue legitimate Princes the infallible victorie of Rebellions, without the hazarding of battailes; yet not withſtanding, the loue of his Maieſtie hath been ſo great towards his ſubiects, that for to redeeme them from the oppreſsions which they ſuffer, and are yet to ſuffer through the continuance of a long warre, hee hath deſired nothing more for the ſpeedie ending thereof, (ſince the taking of armes in hand) than to aduenture the iuſtice of his cauſe, vpon the ſucceſſe of a battaile, hauing ſought to draw all his enemies thereunto by al meanes poſsible. Firſt of all, when they ſought him in Normandie, they reported, that they went not to giue battaile, but to a victorie alreadie gotten. At which time, (in their ſight) he went to beſiege and take the towne and ca-

ſtle of *Gamaſhe*, and two dayes after to recouer the towne of *Ewe*; all their Armie beeing but 3. leagues off. Since that, in his returne, hee made fiue or ſixe dayes iourney on their ſide of the *Some*: not paſsing the Riuer at *Pont del arche*, as hee might haue done, but deferred to paſſe at *Muellan*, for to receaue them if they would haue giuen him battaile. And ſince likewiſe, after the taking of the Suburbs of *Paris*, the day of his departure thence, his Maieſtie kept his Armie ranged in battaile foure howres, to ſee if there wold be anie effect of that furie, in which it was reported they were arriued at *Paris*: as it hath been more amplie declared in the former diſcourſe. And his Maieſtie being at the village of *Linars* vnder *Mountlhery*, remained there a whole daye, thinking that his enemies, hauing been reſted and refreſhed three dayes in the towne of *Paris*, would haue gathered ſtomacke to haue come out, and haue giuen him battaile there; which if they had put in practiſe, the King would haue met them halfe way. But being aduertiſed, that in ſtead of troubling of themſelues with this buſines, they thought it leſſe dangerous to ſhew their choler, in ſaccaging the particular inhabitants of the ſaid citie; executing thoſe themſelues, whõ al men thought they ſhould haue defended from beeing executed by others: imputing to the richeſt ſort, and ſuch as were eaſieſt to be trodden vnder foote, that they were the Kings friends (to colour thereby their maſſacre and pillaging from puniſhment) regarding neither qualitie nor age, killing and drowning manie, both men and women; making the world beleeue, that that which was executed through the valor of the Kings

Armie, was enterprised by practises and intelligences, to excuse the slender care, and small courage of those, which were within the Citie: where they liuing at their pleasure, being so nested that there was no meanes to drawe them out, his Maiestie determined to take the towne and castle of *Estampes*, beeing mooued thereunto by the aduertisement hee had, that the Lord *Clermont* of *Lodesue* with fiftie or three score Gentlemen had thrust themselues into it, thorough the assurance the Duke *de Maine* had giuen them, (and confirmed by manie of his letters which were intercepted) that he wold come to relieue them with all his Armie. His Maiestie knowing that the Duke *de Maine* had bound himselfe by his faith and honour to relieue *Estampes*, thought to giue him occasion to seeke the battaile, through the besiegeing of it: and in hope thereof departed from the village of *Linars* vpon Sunday the first day of Nouember, and arriued at *Estampes* with all his Armie; which he had inuironed the same day in the morning: & although he could not come thether before day light was shut in, yet at his first comming he wonne the suburbes, which the enemies made showe they would defend. The very same night the town likewise was wonne, and the men of warre did retire themselues into the castle; which was immediately inuironed, & approches made, and two Culuerins were placed in batterie, the Tuesday folowing by faire day light. Which they within seeing, and that the Armie which should haue relieued them, did not appeare, nor that there was any newes of it, demanded a Parle, and yeelded themselues the same day, with condition that eight

of

of them ſhould remaine priſoners, vntill ſuch time as they ſhould cauſe ſeuen or eight others to be deliue-red, who were named vnto them. His Maieſtie after the ſaid agreement, did ſhew that fauour to the Lord *Cleremont* of *Lodeſue*, to two maſters of the Camp, & vnto fiue others that ſhuld haue remained priſoners, to ſend them away vppon their oathes: ſo that there departed out of the ſaid Caſtle, about 40. Gentlemē, and aboue 200. ſouldiers, who were ſafely conduct-ed halfe way vnto *Paris*. His Maieſtie conſidering that the poore towne of *Eſtampes* in foure moneths had been three times taken, and that although it had been neceſſarie for him to haue kept a good garriſon in it, yet notwithſtanding (of his own nature being as eaſie to be ouercome with pitie and clemencie, as hee is inuincible to his enemies) was content to take no other aſſurance of the towne, than the oathes of the inhabitants, wherein hee repoſed his truſt. And further, to put them out of doubt, that the caſtle ſhuld be no meane of their rigorous vſage hereafter, he de-termined to raſe the ſaid caſtle, & to commit the kee-ping of the town to the townſmen only, perſwading himſelf that they cōparing the vſage which they had had at his hands and his enemies together, it was the ſureſt Garriſon, to keepe them in obedience. His ſaid Maieſtie remained ther vntil the ſaturday folowing, during which time there arriued a Gentleman ſent from the Queene Dowager, bringing a requeſt, which ſhe preſented vnto his Maieſtie for to beſeech him, to ſhew her iuſtice for the cruell ſlaughter com-mitted vpon the perſon of the late king her husband. His Maieſtie deferred the aunſwere of this requeſt,

vntill

vntill ſuch time as he ſate in counſell ; where beeing the daye following, the Gentleman was called for; who after hee had deliuered his meſſage, the requeſt was read alowd in the preſence of al the Princes Mareſhalls of *France*, and principall Lords and Gentlemen, of which there was then a great number about King. By which requeſt, beſides the deſiring of his Maieſtie, ſhe did adiure not onely the Princes & Nobilitie of *France*, but alſo all the Princes of Chriſtendome, to be aſsiſters in this iuſt cauſe. His Maieſtie making aunſwere himſelfe, declared that he highlie commended her vehemencie in following this ſute, and ſent his ſaid requeſt vnto his Court of Parliament tranſported to *Towers*, that his Atturney general, with the Atturney of the ſaid Ladie, might make the information againſt the offenders, to the intent the matter might bee determined afterward in his preſence, in manner and forme conuenient. And for his owne part, although the ſaid ſute were commendable in the ſaid Ladie, yet he wold not ceaſe to proſecute the matter, but vowed in the preſence of the cõpanie, that he would imploy his trauaile and armes, vntill ſuch time as he had done the iuſtice, that God had appointed him to doo. So that as the pitifull termes of the Requeſt of the ſaid Ladie, had filled the eyes of all the hearers with teares; the Princelie anſwere of his Maieſtie had quickly dried them with a deſire of reuenge. At which time was renued by thẽ all with a lowd voyce, the oath of not laying downe Armes, vntill ſuch time as they had reuenged the hateful death of the late King their maſter: & to haue ſeene their countenances, it had not been for the pro-

fite of the League, that this requeſt had been preſen-
ted at the day of a Battaile. But the King ſeeing, that
neither ſhame nor loſſe could make his enimies come
out of *Paris*, and that there was no hope of bringing
them to battaile, but by extreame neceſsitie, hee ſent
backe againe the Duke *de Longueuile* with the forces
that he had brought with him out of *Picardie*, to re-
freſh themſelues in the ſaid Prouince, *Monſieur La
Nowe* returning with him. Hee did the like alſo by
the Lord *de Giury*, which came and met him with a
verie good troupe at his departure from the Suburbs
of *Paris*, ſending him toward the Countrey of *Brie:*
and with the reſt which he had, hee was determined
to make a little voyage to the Riuer of *Loir*, beeing
called thether by manie occaſions : and this hee did,
ſtaying vntill his ſtrange forces that aroſe firſt were
further on their way, than they were then. So he de-
parted from *Eſtampes*, on Saturday the x. of Nouem-
ber: and taking his waye through the Countrey of
Beauſſe, beeing aduertiſed that the towne of *Ianuille*,
which is in the middeſt of the ſame, ſtopt all the paſ-
ſages, deſired to winne it in paſsing. And being arri-
ued vppon the Sundaie, the Captaine that was in it,
made a ſhewe of defence, but ſeeing the Canon ap-
proach, yeelded it; and departing with 200 harque-
buziers, his Maieſtie entred the ſame day, and lodged
there the morow after: thoſe of the towne receiuing
no diſpleaſure nor diſcommoditie, no more than if
they neuer had reiected the obedience of his Maie-
ſtie. The King leauing good garriſon in the Caſtle,
which is a reaſonable good place, departed thence,
going through the Land of *Beauſſe*, to the towne of

Chaſteau-

Chasteaudun. Where as soone as hee was arriued, he sent to summon the towne of *Vandosme*, which is his auncient patrimonie, and the auncient title of his predecessors; and although that thereby they were double his subiects, and therefore the more culpable in taking his enemies part: yet notwithstanding he hauing a more care to keepe them from further offending, than to punish them for their first fault, did lodge three daies at the said *Chasteaudun*, for to giue them respite to aduise themselues. But God who reserued them for an example of his iustice, would not suffer them to accept the offers which his Maiestie offered them to receiue them to his good fauour: but on the contrarie becomming more insolent and stifnecked, constrained him to assaile them. Whilest the King lodged at *Chasteaudun*, the Captaine of the *Swisses* arriued, which were sent by and by after the death of the late King deceased by the Colonells of the foure Regiments, which are in seruice of his Maiestie, for to knowe the pleasure of their superiours, whether they shuld continue in the seruice, or aske their leaue to returne? Who reported vnto his Maiestie, besides the answere which they gaue vnto their said Colonels from their superiours, that they had expresse charge from them to giue his Maiestie to vnderstand, that they did not onely command the Colonels and Captaines of the said Regiments to continue in dooing him good and faithfull seruice, but also that they did offer him all such other succour as he shuld need; holding from that hower the same alliance and good friendship confirmed with his Maiestie, which they haue had with the Kings his predecessors; which is

a thing quite contrarie to that which his enemies boasted of, that the said Regiments should bee called home, and should doo his Maiestie no seruice. Hee departed from the said *Chasteadun* the fourteenth of Nouember, and the same daye his Armie inuironed the towne of *Vandosme*. The King arriuing at the towne of *Mellay* the sixteenth day, before he lighted, he went and viewed the towne and castle, which are both of reasonable strength, the said towne beeing inclosed with a good ditch well watred, and with a good wall well flanked, and in manie places rampered within. The Castle was much stronger, beeing scituated vpon an hill, inuironed with a good ditch towards the field, and a great height ouer the towne, the wall good and defended with manie towers. The gouernor of the place was the Lord *de male-benehard*, who perceiuing that it should be besieged, hee called vnto him certaine Gentlemen his friends, and kept in it an ordinarie garrison of foure Companies of footemen, which were foure hundred men strong, besides those of the town, who were seuen or eight hundred men bearing armes. The day of his arriual he caused the suburbes of the towne to be wonne, & parted my Lordes the Marshalls *de Biron* and *d'Aumount*, the one on the one side of the riuer, and the other on the other side, with the troupes of the saide Armie. And hauing well considered of the forme of the siege, he determined first to deale with the castle, which was of most strength, to make an end at once: for that the Castle being wonne the towne could not escape, which would not so haue happened if he had begun with the towne. He passed Fridaie and Saturdaie

daie to view where he ſhould place the batterie, and to put things in a readines: wherein the preſence of his Maieſtie, was woorth the labour of fiftie others; for he ſtird not from the worke all the daye long, and part of the night. In the meane time, the ſaid *Malebenehard* who had before (whileſt the King was at *Chaſteadun*) deſired to parley with the Lord of *Richelieu* great Prouoſt of *France*, with whom he was familiarlie acquainted: afterward, when as the ſaide Prouoſt did goe to him into the towne, he knew not almoſt what hee required, but that hee deſired, that without yeelding the place, the Armie might retyre. Feeling himſelfe afterward pricked in conſcience, & in danger of the ſiege, he required againe to ſpeake with the ſaid Lord of *Richelieu*, who retourning the ſecond time, came backe againe as vncertaine and ill ſatiſfied as at the firſt. Wherin it well appeared, that God would make him throughlie feele the recompence of his deſerts, hauing giuen him reſpite inough long time before the iudgement happened, for to ſeeke remedie, and not permitted him to helpe himſelfe with reſolution, as it came to paſſe. For his Maieſtie hauing paſſed all the night in conducting and placing the Artillerie in battaile, began at the dawning of the daye to beate two towers of the Caſtle, to take away the defences of the breach, which hee purpoſed to make: but after the beſtowing of an hundred or an hundred and twentie Cannon ſhot, and hauing made a hole in one of the ſaide Towers, where onely two men could paſſe in front, the Souldiers deſirous of the aſſault, certaine of them beeing onely commanded to ſee if they could lodge

Here the Engliſhmē wold haue aſſaulted, and were impeached by Monſieur Chattillion, and expreſly forbidden.

in the ſaid Tower, they got vp, and with a furie entered the retrenchment: and being followed with the reſt, ſome conducted by the Baron of *Byron*, and others by the Lord of *Chaſtillion*, they made thoſe within ſo diſmaied, (although they were a great number) that after they preſented the combate, they fled; and abandoning the caſtle ranne into the towne: where they were followed ſo neerelie, that the ſaid Lordes with part of the ſaid Souldiers, entred pell mell with them, and made themſelues within leſſe than halfe an howre maſters both of the caſtle & towne. The ſaid *Male-beneherd* and al his Souldiers, being retired into an houſe, did yeeld themſelues incontinent vnto the aforeſaid Baron of *Byron*, not otherwiſe, but at the Kings mercie: ſo that there was neuer towne ſeene battered & taken by aſſault (as it was) with leſſe murther; for there was not one man loſt of the Armie, & few of his enemies, his ſaid Maieſtie hauing pardoned all men, except the ſaid *Beneherd*, and a ſeditious grey Frier, (whom all the inhabitants themſelues accuſed to be the author of their miſchiefe) were executed. There was no meane to keep the towne from pillaging but the Churches his Maieſtie cauſed carefully to be preſerued, that there entred not one man into them. The morrowe after, hee cauſed his men of warre to depart the Towne, and ſuffered the Inhabitants to returne to their houſes, not permitting them anie longer to be pillaged and ranſomed. Hee reſtored all the Eccleſiaſticall perſons vnto their ſeuerall charges, much more peaceablie than they were, when the Towne was in occupation of the League. The example of this iuſtice ſaued more than a thouſand

ſand mens liues: for foure or fiue little townes thereabouts, who profeſſed to hold againſt the King, taking example by *Vandoſme*, yeelded themſelues in leſſe than foure or fiue dayes. The Caſtle and towne of *Lauerden* began firſt, and were followed by the Townes of *Mount-ouert*, *Mount-richard*, and *Chateau-du-loyre*, who did all great hurt, eſpecially to *Towers*, keeping the paſſages vnto it. The Towne of *Vandoſme* beeing taken, finding himſelfe ſo neare *Towers*, his Maieſtie minded to make a ſmall iourney thether, to ſee the Lordes of his Councell, and to determine with them certaine principles of his buſineſſe: leauing in the meane while the Armie to bee conducted by the Marſhall *Byron*; by whoſe preſence hee reduced all the aforeſayde Townes, except *Mount richard*, which was reduced by the voyage which his Maieſtie made vnto *Towers*.

Hee departed from *Meſlay* by *Vandoſme* vppon Tueſday beeing the one and twentieth of Nouember, and arriued the ſame day at *Towers*, two howers within night: where hee was attended with ſo great ioye and gladneſſe of all the people of *Towers*, and ſuch ſtoare of lights there was in the ſtreates at his arriuall, as if it had been at noone daye.

The ſame daye at night, my Lorde the Cardinall of *Vandoſme*, came to doo reuerence vnto the King, and receiued intertainment and countenaunce agreeable to his neereneſſe in bloud vnto the Kings Maieſtie.

The

The morrow after, thoſe of the Parliament, came perſonally to ſalute and acknowledge the King; the firſt Preſident making the Relation: which charge he executed in ſubſtance and eloquence moſt happelie, and to the great contentment of his Maieſtie. All the other bodies of the Chamber of accompts, Court of aides, of the Finances, of the Iuſtices of the law, and the Maior and Iurats of the Towne did the like. And likewiſe the Eccleſiaſticall perſons of the town, all with great ſhewe of ioye, and hope of happie and quiet Reigne of his ſaid Maieſtie: wherin they were the more confirmed by the anſweres which they receiued likewiſe from him, in excellent tearmes, and kingly eloquence. The ſame day the Embaſſador of *Venice* was graunted audience: where hee preſented firſt of all the letters of the Signiorie vnto his Maieſtie, and afterward declared the ioy they had of his happie Succeſsion vnto the Crown; beſeeching him to accept the offer of the friendſhip of the ſaid Signiorie vnto his Maieſtie, & to promiſe and aſſiure them of his, to maintaine the good intercourſe betweene his Crowne, and the ſaide Signiorie: whereunto his Maieſtie aunſwered verie well and wiſely. Hee was determined to haue ſtaid but one day at *Towers*, but they were ſo deſirous to ſee him, that hee could not depart vntill the Saturday following. At which time, with one iourney hee went vnto his Armie at the Caſtle of *Loyre*, which is ten good leagues off, & and departed thence the morrow after for to goe toward *Mans*, which long time hee was deſirous to beſiege. He lodged twiſe by the way. And being arriued at *Yuray leueſque* the xxvij. daye, one league diſtance

ſtance from the ſaid towne of *Mans*, which hee had cauſed to be inuironed the day before by the Lord of *Fargeſſe*: he ſent to ſummon the ſaid town. Vnto whom the Lord of *Boiſdauphin* (which commaunded in it for the League) made an anſwere, as if hee had been reſolute to burie himſelfe in it, and all thoſe that were with him, rather than to depart out of it; & began to burne a great part of the Suburbes of *La Couſture*, eſpeciallie that part which was without the retrenchment of the ſaid Suburbes. But the ſaid Lord of Fargeſſe came vpon them with his troupe, and ſaued a great part of the aforenamed Suburbes. Immediately after the Baron *Byron*, and *Chaſtilion* arriued with the greateſt part of the French Infanterie, by whome the ſame night was the aforeſaid retrenchment wonne, which was in ſome places twentie foote high, and might eaſelie haue attended the Cannon: and from that time it was ſuppoſed, that they were eaſier to be dealt with, than was looked for. The morrow after the xxviij. of the ſaid moneth of Nouember, his Maieſtie came and lodged in the ſaid Suburbes, which is faire, and in a maneer more commodious to lodge in, than the Towne. And the ſame daye hee cauſed all the other Suburbes to be wonne, except the Suburbes of *Saint Iohn*, that was on the other ſide of the Riuer of *Sarthe*, which was wonne the morrow after, the ſaid *Boyſdauphin* hauing cauſed more than halfe to bee burned, and that which was next the bridge, which was the faireſt houſing. All their valour appeared in nothing but in that. For three daies folowing, whilſt the Gabeons wer a making and other preparatiues neceſſarie for the batte-

rie, and the pieces brought to their places, his Maieſtie himſelfe hauing paſſed whole nights therein, vpon the ſecond day of September, began to beat certaine defences of the wall of the ſaid Towne. Immediatelie after the firſt vollies of the Cannon, that braue ſpeach which they had giuen at the ſummoning of the Towne, was turned quite contrarie into ſubmiſsion. So that *Boiſ lauphin* and his people not imagining that they ſhould haue been ſo ſharplie delt withall (for within three houres they ſhoulde haue had aſſault giuen them, which they were not wel reſolued to abide) demaunded a Parley; and in fine before two of the clocke in the afternoone, the ſaide Towne was yeelded vnto his Mateſtie: notwithſtanding that there were in it more than an hundred gentlemen, and twentie enſignes of footemen, who during the time of the Parley, did diſhonour each other publiquely. The Gentlemen ſaid, that the Souldiers would not fight, and the Souldiers ſaid, that agaynſt their wills the Gentlemen would compound. As in truth it was a thing verie ſtrange, hauing cauſed the people to ſpend more than 5000. crownes in the fortefying of the Suburbs of their Townes, burnt more than a 100000. crownes worth of houſing, and (as it is ſaid) ruined the Countrey ſix times as much more, for to abide three vollyes of the Cannon, and afterward to yeeld the Towne: which without the great care that his Maieſtie had had of it, had neuer beene kept from pillage: but hee commaunded the gates to be kept ſhut. And to the intent that none ſhould take occaſion to go into it, he would not lodge in it himſelfe, but kept in the ſuburbes where he firſt was lodged.

ged. There were two ſoldiers found with a Chalice which they had ſtollen, and were hanged immediately, although they were knowen to be men of value. The thundring of the Cannon was heard at *Le Fort-berne-herd*, when the Counte *Briſaac* was arriued with two Regiments to ſuccour the ſaid Town of *Mans*: who was ſo made afraid, that he ran back againe 12 leagues; and in retiring, fell by chance into the Reiſters quarter that ſerued his Maieſtie, who would not diſlodge as they were appointed, & carried away for their bootie 30. or 40. horſe and chariots without the loſſe of anie man. His Maieſtie reſtored firſt into the towne of *Mans*, the Biſhop and the Lord of *Fargeſſe* his brother. which had been Gouernour before, & pardoned the reſt of the inhabitants, who came all, aſwell Eccleſiaſticall, as other, to giue him thankes, with proteſtation of their fidelitie and perfect obedience. During the aboad, which the King made at *Mans*, fiue daies after the taking of it, the Caſtle of *Beaumont* yeelded firſt of all, and the Caſtle of *Touvoie*, and likewiſe the greateſt part of the Gentlemen, which were in the Towne of *Mans*, and others which had been ſeduced by the League, & put themſelues into the Kings ſeruice; who was accompa[illegible]ed in that ſiege with more than fiue hundred Gentlemen of the Prouinces thereabout. Amongſt whom there were manie Marqueſſes, Counties, and other great Lords.

At that time the Townes of *Sablee*, *Lauall*, *Chaſteaugountere*, which are all Townes of importance, and manie others which are not of ſo great name, were reduced vnto the King.

Before his departure from *Mans*, his Maieſtie was determined to take the Towne and Caſtle of *Alanſon*: and whileſt his Armie marched thether, vnder the conduct of the Lord Marſhall *Byron*, and of the Lord Baron *Byron* his ſonne Marſhall of the Campe, he thought good to make a ſmall voyage to *Lauall*, to the intent, by his preſence to comfort the Nobilitie and people of the Countrey, which were newly reduced vnto his obedieuce, and likewiſe to cauſe the Prince *Dumbees* to come thether whom his Maieſtie deſired to ſee.

He arriued at the ſaid *Lauall* the ix. day of December, and there came and met him a great way without the Towne, all the Eccleſiaſticall perſons, aſwell Chanons, as other religious perſons, with their ornaments, as they were accuſtomed to goe in Proceſſion: and hauing by the mouth of one of them made their ſubmiſsion, and proteſtation of their fidelitie and obedience, accompanied the King vntill he entred the Towne, ſinging alwaies *Viue le Roy*, in verie good muſicke. There came out likewiſe the Maieſtrates of the Towne, and met him: and the people cried each where with an inceſſaunt crye, *Viue le Roy*, whileſt that his Maieſtie paſſed thorough the Towne.

He abode there eight or tenne dayes, and the afore ſayd Prince *Dumbees* arriued with a great Companie of the Nobilitie of *Britaine*, to whome it was great honour to be knowen vnto his Maieſtie, and he was moſt courteouſly receiued.

Certaine of his Troupe departing from the Companie, tooke in their waye comming the Caſtle of

Chaſteu-

Chasteubriant, and brought with them the Captaine and manie others prisoners.

His Maiestie hauing spent certaine dayes with the Prince *Dumbees*, and taking order for the affaires of that Prouince, he sent him againe to his charge; and dispatched *Mounsieur* Marshall *D'aumount*, for to gather his strange Forces together. And the King came from *Lauall* vnto the Towne of *Maienna-la-Iabes*, where he was verie well receiued, and assured himselfe of the Castle, without leauing anie other Garrison in the Towne. Hee arriued at *Alanson* the three and twentieth daye, hauing passed a most foule Countrey.

And as concerning my Lord Marshall *Byron*, who departed with the Armie from the Towne of *Mans* the ninth day of the said moneth of December, hee could not arriue at *Alanson* till the fifteenth daye following, by reason of the foule waie, which hindred the carriage of the Ordinaunce: and hauing caused the Towne to be inuironed certaine dayes before by the Lord of *Artray*, who at his first comming tooke the Suburbes, and droue them of the Towne afterward to come to composition, and yeeld, Captaine *Lago* (which was Gouernour) retiring himselfe into the Castle with foure hundred and fiftie Souldiers, making shewe that he would defend it; the place being verie good and strong, inuironed with water, good walls, good flankes, and great Towers.

The saide Lord Marshall beeing entered into the Towne, kept so good order in it, that it was not seen that it had been besieged, the shops beeing kept open the same daye, as if it had been in peace.

Here the English entred a bulwarke or rauelin, wel inuironed and defended with water, by pulling downe a draw bridg with a hooke, and wold haue assaied to to enter the towne. but themarshal Byron forbad them expreslie.

At the hower of the entrie, he cauſed the artilletie to be brought before the Caſtle, and ſhot at the defences, aud had ſo farre proceeded in this buſineſſe, that hauing found meanes to take away their watet, he could in little ſpace haue made breach. His Maieſtie being arriued as aforeſaid, he ſhewed him all that was done, and alſo what was intended to bee done: who anſwered immediatelie that the ſiege wold not be long,

The ſaid Captaine *Lago* that was in the Caſtle did imagine little leſſe, and at the ſummons which his Maieſtie did cauſe to be made, for to declare that hee was come, he began to be aſtonied: and the morrow after he parleyed, and the ſame day the compoſition was agreed vppon, to ſaue his life and his ſouldiers, with their armes and baggage.

His Maieſtie hauing foreſeene for the aſſuraunce of the ſaid place, left for Gouernor the Lord *Artray*, with a good garriſon in the Towne and Caſtle, and departing the ſeuen and twentieth daye, he went and lodged at *Seas*, where the Biſhop and Cleargie with the Maieſtrates came and met him, and receiued him ſo well, that hee truſted vnto the inhabitants of the place, without leauing therein anie other Garriſon.

He departed thence the morrow after for to go to *Argenton*, which is a good Towne, in which there is a Caſtle of reaſonable ſtrength: and there was in the ſaid Towne and Caſtle three Enſignes of footemen, which the Countie of *Briſaac* had lefte there: who with the *Cheualier Picard* and his Regiment were come from *Paris*, and had promiſed to ſhew him-

himselfe at all the sieges which his Maiestie woulde take in hand, and impeach him from the taking of anie of the Townes in the Countrey of *Maine*, and base *Normandie*: notwithstanding hee shewed himselfe at none.

Those of the Towne of *Argenton*, being determined to yeeld vnto his Maiestie, came & met him, most humbly beseeching him to receiue them into his fauour, which he graunted them most willingly; which the Souldiers seeing, retired themselues into the Castle; beseeching his Maiestie to suffer them to depart with their liues & baggage, which he consented vnto.

His maiestie was aduertised the same day, that those of the Garrison of the Castle of *Damfront*, vnderstanding that he had summoned the Inhabitants of the Towne, and that they were determined to acknowledge the King, entered into consultation what they should doo, being of contrarie opinions, and thereupon put themselues in Armes one against another: It hapned, that those that would submit themselues to his Maiestie although they were not halfe so manie in number as as the others were, encouraged with the Iustice of their cause, had the Victorie: and the Baron of *Vernie* gouernour of the said Castle was slaine, and certeine other: whereupon aswell those of the Castle as those of the Towne sent vnto the King to craue his fauour and clemencie, which they obteined. And he sent vnto the Towne to bee assured of both parties, which was done, without omitting anie force or excesse.

The

The King remaining for this cauſe one whole day at *Argenton*, departed thence vpon Sundaye the one and thirtieth of December, for to goe to the ſiege of *Faleſe*, the Caſtle whereof is verie ſtrong, & eſteemed to be the beſt place in baſe *Normandie*, next vnto the Caſtle of *Caen*, and therefore the Counte of *Briſac* put himſelfe into it, with the *Cheualier Picard* and his Regiment, hauing wonne vnto them manie Gentlemen and Souldiers of the Countrey, vaunting that they would repay the honour of their companions, who had yeelded and loſt all the other Townes, and that at this place, all the ſpoyles that had been gotten, ſhould be ſurrendred.

His Maieſtie the night before, had ſent the Baron of *Byron* to inuiron it, with certaine Troupes of men of warre, aſwell foote as horſe, who came thether ſo happely, that he found the Conte of *Briſac* come out of the Towne, purpoſing to burne the Towne of *Guibray*, which is as it were one of the Suburbes of *Faleze*. Who perceiuing the ſaid Troupes, the fier he brought with him was not anye waye able to heate him ſo much as to make him abide them, but returning with all ſpeede into the Towne, hee lefte *Guibray* whole: and the ſaid Baron *de Byron* did not onely ceaze vpon it to lodge his Maieſtie, but alſo at the ſame inſtant did make them runne away out of the Suburbes of the Towne, ioyning euen to the gate, part whereof they themſelues had burned a litle before.

His Maieſtie beeing arriued, went preſently with the Mareſhall of *Byron* to viewe the Towne and Caſtle, which are both ſtrong; the ſaid Towne beeing

inuironed

inuironed with a great poole, whoſe water could not be drawen away, the wall being good, and flanked with good towers, and the approaches difficile for the planting of Ordinaunce; the Caſtle beeing much ſtronger, garniſhed with great and ſtrong towers and verie good wals, with a donion ſeperated, ditched with good and great ditches: and beſides all this the Counte of *Briſac* well accompanied with Gentlemen, Captaines and Souldiers, with a great ſhowe that hee would not haue made this proofe but with intent to get honour, and to defend the place effectuallie, as in deede vnto the Summons which his Maieſtie did make the next day, he made an anſwere conuenient vnto ſuch a reſolution, which was that he had vowed vnto God, that he would neuer ſpeak of anie compoſition for that Towne, which made all men thinke, that he would haue defended it better than he did.

His Maieſtie (whoſe preſence in ſuch like affaires is the perfect ſchoole of extreame diligence, determined ſo to begin, as that he would not make 2. workes of one) did batter the Caſtle; for that the Caſtle being wonne, the Towne could not hold out, and cauſed the morrowe after, with great expedition, Gabions to be made for the batterie, bags to be filled with earth, and all things neceſſarie to be done. Which was ſo diligently followed, that in leſſe than three dayes all was in a readineſſe, and had begun to batter vpon the Thurſday, but that he ſtayed for three Cannons which *Mounſieur Mompenſier* brought him out of the Caſtle of *Caen*: which could not arriue at the ſaid ſiege vntill that verie day.

With the Duke *Montpenſier* there came betwixt twelue and fifteene hundred French Souldiers, and a good Troupe of the Gentlemen of the Countrey, & certaine Companies of men of Armes. Thoſe with in the Towne did neuer ſallye out : but otherwiſe made alwaies a good ſhewe of a reſolution in them, and in their words were ouer lauiſh, performing afterward ſo little as they did.

His Maieſtie pretending to make three batteries, two of which, from ſundrie parts ſhould batter at the breach of the ſaid Caſtle; and the third to bee placed vpon a Rocke, which ſhould ſcoure curtaine wiſe along, behinde the breach of the ſaid Caſtle. Hee began vpon Friday the fifth day of Ianuarie at eight of the clocke to beate two great towers, which flanked from the one vnto the other; the one of which ſerued for a defence vnto the breach, which he purpoſed to make. After the beſtowing of foure hundred Cannon ſhot, the top of one of the Towers beeing fallen, and a hole being made in the other tower that defended the breache, which hole opened into the ſaid Caſtle, his Maieſtie cauſed it to be battered for the ſpeedie breach which would be made in it : for there needed but the beating away of a little piece of the wall. Then he commaunded certaine Troupes of Souldiers, to goe and viewe if they could lodge in the ſaid Tower, vpon which certain of them entring the hole, which was pierced through the Tower into the Caſtle, finding no reſiſtance, called their companions, and ſo entring one after another, in verie ſhort ſpace they became Maſters both of Caſtle and Towne.

Thoſe

Thoſe within being ſore diſmaied, without anie fight they retired them ſelues into the Donion ſpoken of before; out of which they ſent three Gentlemen the ſame daye, to beſeech the King to receaue them vpon anie compoſition; who aunſwered, that he would not receane them, but at his own pleaſure; and that they ſhould prooue his clemencie, without binding himſelfe vnto anie condition. Yet notwithſtanding, the morrowe after ſuffering the Countie *Briſac* to come and ſubmit himſelfe vnto him, he being ouercome with the pitie he had vpon the young Gentleman, graunted to chuſe fifteene of the beſt of them, whom he would keepe priſoners as warlike enemies, and the reſt ſhould be at his Maieſties diſpoſition.

It were not well done to take away the Souldiers honour that were at this ſiege, who in truth did their indeuour: but wee muſt acknowledge this to haue been Gods worke, as a thing moſt admirable vnto vs that ſaw it, that at one inſtant thoſe that ſeemed to be furious Lions, were metamorphoſid into meeker things than Lambes. The Towne being thus taken by aſſault, could not be preſerued from pillaging and ſaccaging: ſo that by this may compariſon be made, between the intertainment that thoſe receiue, which flie vnto his Maieſties clemencie, and thoſe which obſtinately attend the force of his Armie; the one being made whollie deſolate, and the other reioycing in a full and perfect quietnes, making a profit of their loſſe, obtaining by their taking and reduction free libertie, in ſtead of the hard captiuitie which they ſuffered vnder the vnlawfull gouernment of others.

It is to be well considered, of what great value the wise and happie gouernement of his Maiestie hath been; his enemies being constrained to confesse, that it is to be wondered at, and vntill this time vnknowen, hauing in lesse than two moneths trauailed eightscore leagues, with such a great Armie as his, troubled with a great deale of Ordinaunce, manie *Switzers*, and other strange Nations; and in this time taking the Suburbes of *Paris*, made fiue or sixe notable sieges, taken fourteene or fifteene notable towns, hauing cleared the Prouinces of *Vandosme*, *Tourain*, *Anion*, and *Maine*, of all that his enemies helde: and not onelie recouered the Townes, but the hearts and affections of those that most hated him. All his exploites being done by the force of his armes, and presence, and terror of the same; without practises of treasons, murders, monopoles, or fraudes: leauing those guiles, vnto those that deale with vniust actions, assuring himselfe his cause to bee so iust, that it was able to support it selfe without the helpe of anie thing of a contrarie nature, hauing alwaies this commendable maxime in regard, that euil can neuer serue to anie good purpose.

Is it possible that GOD hath so condemned the poore inhabitants of Towns, that he wil suffer them anie longer to be so blinded in spirit and bodie, as not to consider of the mischieses wherin they haue plunged themselues, and howe those vnto whome they giue themselues ouer, and receiue for friendes, become immediatelie the cruellest enemies they can haue: who after they haue sucked from them al that they can drawe, while they are with them, and by

little

little and little made them ſubiects to the ſimpleſt ſoldiers of their troupes, if there bee anie brute of the Kings Armie comming, in ſtead of preparing to preſerue the people, vſe no other induſtrie, but to burne halfe their Townes, and the greateſt part of the Villages within two miles round about, then making them to trauaile daye and night in making rampiers and retrenchments: and yet when they are beſieged, if they doo but ſee the Cannon, thinke themſelues excuſed of their honour, in making their compoſition to depart with their liues and baggage ſaued; leauing no token behinde them of their protection, but one halfe of the Townes in aſhes, & the people with a halter about their neckes: ſo that if the Prince they haue to deale with were not mercifull, a whole forreſt could not furniſh for gallowes that would be employed.

Is it poſsible that they ſee not nor know not (that thoſe which haue beene ſo readie to mooue vp theſe ſeditions, are now ſo audacious & malicious as to maintaine them? and that his Maieſtie defending his kingdome againſt tyrannie, his people againſt ſtrangers, and iuſtice againſt iniquitie) the ſucceſſe of his enterpriſes, muſt needes be correſpondent to the equitie of his cauſe; that ineuitable deſtruction will come vpon them that reſiſt him, if the word of God (as it is) be true. For our parts, we moſt humblie beſeech God, to make them able to conſider and acknowledge it, and aboue all things, that it woulde pleaſe God to preſerue his Maieſtie, from al miſhaps that might happen vnto his perſon, and prolong his life: for ſo great need haue we of *France* of his pre-

ſence, that the ordinarie courſe of the longeſt liuers would be but too ſhort.

AFter the ſiege of Faleſe, *the King gaue the Engliſh men leaue to depart; and he himſelfe with his Armie, to weete, the French men and Switzers, Rutters & Lantſ-knights went vnto* Lizeux, *which within ten dayes after he tooke: and from thence his Maieſtie went vnto* Humflet, *which he did batter vpon Fridaie the xvi. of Ianuarie. At which time, part of our Engliſh Forces were ſhipped at* Dines *in* Normandie, *and the reſt, the morrow after.*

FINIS.

BRITISH
11 OC86
MUSEUM